Dear Colleagues:

I write to announce the appointment of David E. Kirkland as director of the Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools (Metro Center), effective July 1, 2015.

As Metro’s deputy director, David is well prepared to lead the Center into its next phase. His work as a transdisciplinary scholar of English and urban education, especially his exploration of urban youth culture, language and literacy, urban teacher preparation, and digital media, leave him uniquely positioned to carry on the Center’s essential work.

David analyzes culture, language, and texts, and has expertise in critical literary, ethnographic, and sociolinguistic research methods. He has received many awards for his work and is widely published; his most recent articles include *Black Skin, White Masks: Normalizing Whiteness and the Trouble with the Achievement Gap* (TCHR), *English(es) in urban contexts: Politics, Pluralism, and Possibilities* (English Education), and *We real cool: Examining Black males and literacy* (Reading Research Quarterly). David has also just completed his fourth book, *A Search Past Silence* (Teacher College Press Language and Literacy Series), which won him this year’s Griffith’s Award.

As we welcome David as director, we also acknowledge Pedro Noguera for his years of successful service in this role. Pedro will officially step down as director on September 1, 2015. Under his leadership, the Metro Center has become a comprehensive, university-based center that focuses on educational research, policy, and practice. Persistence of vision has forged the Metro Center into a nationally recognized leader in this field, and today the Center’s comprehensive programs serve more than 5,000 classroom staff, impacting 125,000 students as well as 2,800 parents and 61 agencies, schools, and school districts. We thank Pedro for his invaluable leadership.

I am confident that Steinhardt’s research trajectory will continue to grow with David’s direction of the Metro Center. Please join me in congratulating him on his new appointment.

Sincerely,

Dominic Brewer
Gale and Ira Drukier Dean